

Sea & Sage Audubon SJWS Census Report for October 2010

Census Date: 10/01/10 **Census Time:** 7:30 - 9:40 am **Weather:** cloudy, very warm, thunderstorm

Birders who took part in the census were: Sara Bethurum, Barbara Dixon, Betsy Flynn, Carol Freund, Jan Gaffney, Sharon Harrow, Nancy Kenyon, Merri Levy, Sally Menzel, Carolyn Noble, Barbara Sentovich, Darrell Wilson. The San Diego Creek was not covered due to road work along Riparian View.

See our chapter webpage for data on all of our monthly SJWS bird counts:

<http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org/BirdInfo/BirdCounts/SJWSscensus/SJWSscensus.htm>

or, using the tinyurl system, <http://tinyurl.com/cc5gry>

Comments: The weather was warm with large gray clouds. The water in the ponds was so calm that it was often a challenge to distinguish the birds from their reflections. For the first time in 13 years of bird counts here, we were treated to a short but violent thunder storm with several loud claps of thunder, a couple of streaks of lightning, and 3 minutes of large rain drops which descended on Darrell as he was counting over by Michelson. As one might expect, the birds erupted from the ponds after the 1st clap of thunder, the Killdeer crying in an agitated manner as only Killdeer can do, and some of the birds never did return to the ponds they flew up from. Water was back in pond E again (last month it was almost dry for the annual maintenance cleaning) and the pond was teeming with shorebirds and ducks. Carolyn & Betsy found the one remaining Yellow-breasted Chat by pond 4. Carol & Nancy were happy to find the Pectoral Sandpipers were still at the marsh, 3 in pond E and 1 in pond C, and everyone else got to see them also.

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| Geese & Ducks | |
| 9 | Canada Goose |
| 3 | Wood Duck |
| 48 | Gadwall |
| 116 | Mallard |
| 4 | Cinnamon Teal |
| 65 | Northern Shoveler |
| 1 | Northern Pintail |
| 14 | Green-winged Teal |
| 13 | Ruddy Duck |
| Grebes | |
| 8 | Pied-billed Grebe |
| 3 | Eared Grebe |
| 1 | Western Grebe |
| Pelicans & Cormorants | |
| 35 | American White Pelican |
| 1 | Brown Pelican |
| 14 | Double-crested Cormorant |
| Hérons, Egrets & Ibis | |
| 9 | Great Blue Heron |
| 7 | Great Egret |
| 8 | Snowy Egret |
| 4 | Green Heron |
| 11 | Black-crowned Night-Heron |
| (7) ch | White-faced ibis |
| Diurnal Birds of Prey | |
| 5 | Turkey Vulture |
| (1) ch | Osprey |
| 1 | Cooper's Hawk |
| 2 | American Kestrel |
| Rails, Gallinules & Coots | |
| 2 | Virginia Rail |
| 1 | Sora |
| 4 | Common Moorhen |

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| 72 | American Coot |
| Plovers | |
| 44 | Killdeer |
| Stilts & Avocets | |
| 44 | Black-necked Stilt |
| 17 | American Avocet |
| Sandpipers | |
| 1 | Greater Yellowlegs |
| 4 | Pectoral Sandpiper |
| 3 | Spotted Sandpiper |
| 26 | Western Sandpiper |
| 6 | Least Sandpiper |
| 133 | Long-billed Dowitcher |
| Terns | |
| 13 | Forster's Tern |
| Doves | |
| 7 | Mourning Dove |
| Hummingbirds | |
| 29 | Anna's Hummingbird |
| 3 | Allen's Hummingbird |
| Kingfishers | |
| 1 | Belted Kingfisher |
| Woodpeckers | |
| 4 | Nuttall's Woodpecker |
| 3 | Downy Woodpecker |
| Flycatchers | |
| 15 | Black Phoebe |
| 3 | Say's Phoebe |
| 4 | Cassin's Kingbird |
| Vireos | |
| 1 | Hutton's Vireo |
| Crows | |
| 97 | American Crow |

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| Bushtits | |
| 131 | Bushtits |
| Babblers | |
| 2 | Wrentit |
| Wrens | |
| 4 | Bewick's Wren |
| 8 | House Wren |
| 9 | Marsh Wren |
| Gnatcatchers | |
| 16 | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher |
| Mockingbirds & Thrashers | |
| 2 | Northern Mockingbird |
| 4 | California Thrasher |
| Starlings | |
| 8 | European Starling |
| Warblers | |
| 11 | Orange-crowned Warbler |
| 106 | Common Yellowthroat |
| 1 | Yellow-breasted Chat |
| Towhees | |
| 23 | Spotted Towhee |
| 1 | California Towhee |
| Sparrows | |
| 94 | Song Sparrow |
| 6 | White-crowned Sparrow |
| Blackbirds | |
| 7 | Red-winged Blackbird |
| 20 | Great-tailed Grackle |
| Finches | |
| 81 | House Finch |
| 22 | Lesser Goldfinch |
| Exotic Species | |
| 2 | Egyptian Goose |